CRIMPVILLE COMMENTS

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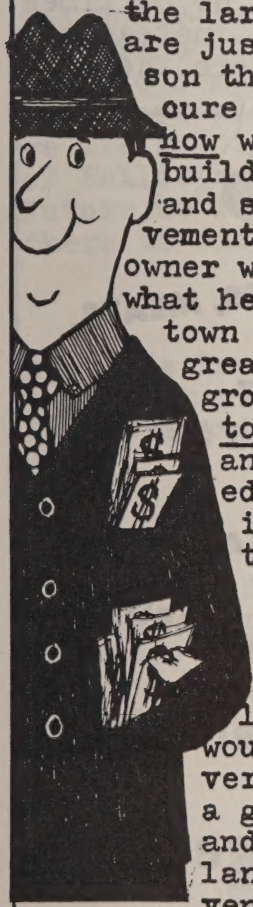
Let's get something started



The revaluation of Bellingham is still going on and at last reports will take twelve months to complete. We were not in favor of revaluation when it was first proposed and we still are against it. Many taxpayers were concerned about the large landowners who are not using the land but are just holding it for speculation. It stands to reason that what would cure an unjust situation will not cure anything at all. It's not how much we tax, but how we tax. Most cities and towns now tax land and buildings at the same rate. This is wrong. We can and should tax the land more heavily, and the improvements lightly or none at all. This way, the homeowner would be better off. He would save on house tax what he would pay extra on land tax. Revenue to the town would come out the same, but the system would greatly change the climate in which our town would grow. The way it is now, it costs almost nothing to hold land as speculation. Taxes on it are low and as a matter of fact, a lot of land is assessed lower while vacant than the same lot is after it has a building on it! If land were heavily taxed and buildings lightly taxed, the owner of vacant land would find it less attractive to hold onto. Taxes year after year would eat up too much of the profit the speculator hopes to get, so he would be far more likely to put his land on the market, and at a price at which it would sell. Stop and think for a moment-- the very idea of taxing improvements is folly. It is a good way to penalize enterprise and creativity and to favor idleness and waste. By taxing the land and untaxing the buildings would also prevent slums and to clear them where they now exist. Slums are tax-made. The ratty old buildings are taxed low; so is the high-value land under it. The landlord is better off by leaving his buildings in bad shape, because if he

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maintained them in decent shape, his taxes would go up! By taxing land, the situation is reversed. The power of tax then would be the incentive of better buildings and much less speculation. The idea is not new. It is done in Pittsburg, Brisbane, Australia, Denmark and even California. It has been tried and found to work. We in Bellingham have the speculators who own large tracts of land and who just watches the busy population around him making the town larger, richer, more convenient every day, and all the while he sits still and does nothing. Roads are made, services are improved and all the while he just sits still, and just lets the land sort of "ripen." Finally, the land having risen 20 or 30 times its value, our speculator sells it. Taxing land instead of buildings would be more realistic for land is where the real value lies.

Up, Up and Away! __ And right over Bellingham! The huge new airport to accomodate 300 passenger jet-planes from overseas very likely will be built in Hopkinton and Holliston. If only the Bellingham Municipal Airport had had the support of the Selectmen, it would have eliminated the possibility of the proposed jetport in this area, but no, our Selectmen in their wisdom and foresight could not back a small business-type airport for Bellingham. We suppose that the reason the Selectmen have not joined the other towns in opposing this jetport is the same wisdom and foresight. We should give these men three cheers each time the super-jets go screaming over our heads. Hopefully, the Selectmen will be just private citizens by the time the jetport is completed. (Selectman Crouteau was not a member of the board when our airport was proposed, so in all fairness, we are not including him in our tirade.) Yes, the destiny of Bellingham lies in the Selectmen's hands. What a bright future we face based on the accomplishments of our Town Fathers to date! May Heaven help us!

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Sawyer's Rockledge Farm has fresh native clams available each week-end. These are not Maryland clams but are from Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

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Mrs. Peggy Thompson of 304 Hartford Avenue in Bellingham has taken on quite a project. She is trying to help an unwed mother and needs maturnity clothes, size 14 and also baby clothes. The girl is only seventeen and her family is unable to help her. How about helping out? Just call Mrs. Thompson at 966-1921.

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LIFE'S CLOCK

The clock of life is wound but once, and no man has the power
To tell just where the hands will stop, at late or early hour.

To lose one's wealth is sad indeed, to lose one's health is more.
To lose one's Soul is such a loss as no man can restore.

The present is our own, live, love, toil with a will;
Place no faith in tomorrow, for the clock may then be still.

Good Old Days

In the picture shown is an old school bus ready to leave with Sunday School students from the Center Baptist Church, for a week's vacation at Camp Wickabog in East Brookfield, Mass. We don't know the people in the picture, but perhaps some of our readers do. We do know that the picture was taken in July or August of 1937 and the pastor of the Center Church at that time was the Rev. Clarence Chamberlain. In our next issue, we will print a picture what is believed to be the first school in Bellingham. It no longer exists but we do know where it was located. A private house is located on the site now and we will have a pic- of that too.

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After snarling at every one in the town for 80 years, the old maid died. At the end of her funeral, a sudden storm blew up. There was a blinding flash of lightning, a deafening clap of thunder, and one of the graveside mourners signed and said, "Well, she GOT there!"

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SAWYER'S HAS THE NEW MINI-CASE OF MILLER'S HI-LIFE BEER FOR $2.50. THAT AMOUNTS TO $1.25 A SIX PACK, FRIEND! WE SELL ICE CUBES, TOO!